GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
USING OF COLOMBO PORT
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than Rs.350 crores is being paid by India as transhipment charges at Colombo port for handling export cargo from India bound for Europe and other destinations;

(b) whether Indian exporters prefer shipment of their cargo from Colombo rather than Kochi/Chennai formany reasons including slow handling of containers at Kochi/Chennai (13/15 containers per hour) compared to 30/40 containers per hour at Colombo;

(c) whether Indian exporters pay up $ 40.00 per container in foreign exchange at Colombo for transhipment of their cargo to mother vessels;

(d) the reason behind mother vessels calling at Colombo Port and avoiding Kochi/Chennai ports;

(e) whether the Government would consider entrusting the management of Kochi/Chennai to private parties as has been done at Tuticorin Port; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir. Substantial amount is spent by country on transshipment charges at neighbouring foreign ports.

(b): Yes, Sir. In some cases, the Indian exporters prefer shipment of cargo through neighbouring foreign ports including Colombo due to several reasons.

(c): The charges at Colombo vary from time to time and terminal to terminal. It is, however, a fact that wherever Indian cargo is transshipped through Colombo or any other foreign port, expenditure is incurred in foreign exchange.

(d): Geographical location of Colombo Port is the main reason for bigger vessels calling at Colombo Port.

(e)&(f): Yes, Sir. The existing Container Terminal of Chennai Port is proposed to be given on lease to M/s. P&O Ports Ltd.